

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 SAJ-01 ACDA-05 ERDA-05

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DHA-02 ORM-02 AF-06 SIL-01 LAB-04 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06

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FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5058

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY KATMANDU

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16767

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, IN

SUBJ: JAPAN-INDIA VICE MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS

SUMMAR: IN RECENT INDIA-JAPAN CONSULTATION, RELATIONS
WITH US, USSR, AND PRC FIGURED PROMINENTLY. INDIANS
DESCRIBED RELATIONS WITH US AS IMPROVING
SATISFACTORILY AND WITH RUSSIANS AS GOOD, BUT MAINTAINED
THAT PEKING WAS UNRESPONSIVE TO DELHI'S OVERTURES MADE
RECENTLY THROUGH PROMINENT VISITORS TO PEKING. WELCOMING
DETENTE, INDIANS AND JAPANESE AGREED BREZHNEV'S COLLECTIVE
SECURITY SCHEME IS "PREMATURE." INDIANS ALSO
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ATTEMPTED TO GIVE IMPRESSION OF DISTANCE FROM MOSCOW

BY CRITICIZING SALT II TALKS AS "SELECTIVE DISARMAMENT" AND SAID "OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE" (PRIMARILY RUSSIAN) WAS LARGELY RESPONSIBLE FOR CHAOS IN ANGOLA. INDIANS APPEARED EVEN-HANDED ON KOREAS AND CALLED UNGA DEBATE A FARCE. JAPANESE HINTED THAT "NON-ALIGNED" SHOULD EXERCISE CAUTION IN UN TO AVOID US DISAFFECTION AND EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER POSSIBLE US WITHDRAWAL FROM ILO. TO INDIANS' SURPRISE JAPANESE DID NOT MENTION NPT OR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. BOTH SIDES CONGRATULATED EACH OTHER ON THEIR MODERATING ROLES IN PRODUCER-CONSUMER FORA. END SUMMARY.

1. RELATIONS WITH WORLD POWERS WERE MAJOR TOPIC IN TENTH ANNUAL JAPAN-INDIA VICE MINISTERIAL CONSULTATIONS HELD THIS WEEK IN TOKYO. DISCUSSIONS WERE HEADED BY MOFA SECRETARY TO GOI TRIVEDI (VICE FONMIN) AND JAPANESE DEP FON MIN ARITA. IN FONOFF BRIEFING FOR US BY SW ASIA DIVDIR TAJIMA AND IN RUNDDOWN BY INDIAN EMBOFF SHARMA (PASSED TO US BY UK EMBASSY), FOLLOWING COMPOSITE EMERGED. INDIANS DESCRIBED RELATIONS WITH US AS IMPROVING SATISFACTORILY, ACCORDING TO TAJIMA, FOLLOWING INDIAN FONMIN CHAVAN'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON. TALKS WITH SECY KISSINGER AND PRES FORD WERE VERY GOOD. INDIANS HOPE US-INDIAN RELATIONS WILL BE "MATURE AND UNDERSTANDING." INDIA IS GOOD FRIEND OF SOVIET UNION FOR THREE BASIC REASONS: A) MOSCOW RESPECTS INDEPENDENCE OF INDIA; B) SOVIETS RESPECT INDIAN ROLE IN "NON-ALIGNED;" AND C) MOSCOW PROVIDES SUBSTANTIAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE TO INDIA.

2. INDIANS SAID INDIA WOULD LIKE TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH CHINA BUT PEKIN HAS THUS FAR BEEN UNRECEPTIVE TO DELHI'S GESTURES SEEKING NORMALIZATION. TRIVEDI REVEALED THAT TWO RECENT VISITOR TO PEKING, UK FORMER PM HEATH AND YUGOSLAV PRES TITO, CARRIED MESSAGES FROM GOI TO CHINESE, TO WHICH, INDIANS SAID, THERE HAS BEEN NO RESPONSE. INDIAN EMBOFF SHARMA SAID MESSAGE HEATH CARRIED WAS THAT INDIA CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD NEVER BE ANYONE'S STOOGE (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING THE RUSSIANS). (TAJIMA COMMENTED TO US THAT INDIANS AND CHINESE ARE BOTH TOO PROUD AND NEITHER WILL UNDERTAKE A MEANINGFUL GESTURE TOWARD THE OTHER, SUCH AS SENDING AN AMBASSADOR BACK TO THE OTHER'S CAPITAL. TAJIMA BELIEVES BOTH SIDES ARE REASONABLY SATISFIED WITH PRESENT STATE OF RELATIONS AND RELATIONS RE, THEREFORE, UNLIKELY TO CHANGE SOON.) INDIANS TOLD

JAPANESE THAT RECENT BORDER INCIDENT RESULTED INITIALLY IN SOME MISUNDERSTANDING BUT IS NOW MATTER OF PAST.

3. BOTH SIDES AGREED THAT DETENTE IS DESIRABLE. REGARDING BREZHNEV'S ASIAN COLLECTIVE SECURITY SCHEME, SHARMA SAID THAT INDIANS AND JAPANESE AGREED THAT THE SCHEME WAS "PREMATURE TO DISCUSS." IN DISCUSSION OF BREZHNEV'S SCHEME, TRIVEDI, ACCORDING TO SHARMA, SAID "WE ARE NOT STOOGES, CHINA SHOULD TAKE NOTE." IN A DIG AT BOTH SUPERPOWERS, INDIANS LABELED SALT TALKS "SELECTIVE DISARMAMENT DESIGNED TO MAINTAIN NUCLEAR MONOPOLY."

4. TO INDIANS' SURPRISE JAPANESE DID NOT MENTION NPT OR PEACEFUL NUCLEAR EXPLOSIONS DESPITE FACT, SHARMA SAID, THAT GOJ AMBASSADOR NISHIBORI TO CCD LOSES NO OPPORTUNITY IN GENEVA TO CHASTIZE THE INDIANS FOR THEIR 1974 NUCLEAR EXPLOSION. SHARMA SPECULATED THAT THE JAPANESE DID NOT DARE BRING IT UP BECAUSE JAPAN HAS FAILED TO RATIFY NPT AND IS THEREFORE "NOT IN POSITION TO LECTURE US ON NUCLEAR MATTERS."

5. REGARDING RELATIONS WITH NEIGHBORS, TAJIMA TOLD US INDIANS GRUMBLED BECAUSE, "EVEN THOUGH INDIA HAS FULFILLED ITS COMMITMENT IN THEIR TRADE AGREEMENT TO PURCHASE PAKISTANI PRODUCTS (COTTON), THE PAKS HAVE PURCHASED NOTHING FROM INDIA." ON BANGLADESH, INDIANS PROFESSED IGNORANCE AS TO WHAT IS GOING ON AND CLAIMED TO ONLY DESIRE A NON-HOSTILE GOVERNMENT IN DACCA, WITH ENOUGH CONTROL TO KEEP ANOTHER FLOOD OF REFUGEES FROM CROSSING THE BORDER INTO INDIA. INDIA "COULD NOT AFFORD ANOTHER INFLUX OF REFUGEES. THEY ARE EXPENSIVE."

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6. IN DISCUSSION ON KOREA, INDIANS SAID THEY ABSTAINED ON BOTH RESOLUTIONS IN UNGA BECAUSE KOREAN PROBLEM SHOULD BE RESOLVED BY NK AND SK WITHOUT OUTSIDE INTERFERENCE. UN HAD NO ROLE IN KOREA AND DEBATE IN NEW YORK WAS "IRRELEVANT AND FACICAL."

7. ACCORDING TO SHARMA, JAPANESE HINTED THAT THE NON-ALIGNED SHOULD WATCH THEIR STEP IN THE UN. RECENT UN ACTIONS ENDANGERED US PARTICIPATION AND, AS A RESULT, JEOPARDIZED VIABILITY OF UN. IN REPLY, INDIANS ASKED RHETORICALLY, "WHAT ABOUT THE US CONTROL OF THE UN IN THE FIFTIES." "US IS A MATURE POWER AND SHOULD NOT BE BOTHERED BY UNGA ACTIVITIES." SHARMA ALSO SAID JAPANESE EXPRESSED CONSIDERABLE CONCERN OVER POSSIBILITY OF US LEAVING ILO.

8. AFTER BOTH SIDES AGREED SITUATION IN ANGOLA WAS CHAOTIC, JAPANESE WERE PROBABLY SURPRISED, ACCORDING TO SHARMA, WHEN INDIANS LAID BLAME FOR SITUATION ON INTERFERENCE ON OUTSIDE POWERS, SINCE PRIMARY EXTERNAL OFFENDER IS THE SOVIET UNION.

9. DISCUSSION ON BILATERAL RELATIONS WAS SCANT. BOTH SIDES COMPLEMENTED AND CONGRATULATED EACH OTHER, ACCORDING TO SHARMA, FOR THEIR ROLES IN PRODUCER-CONSUMER FORA. JAPANESE WELCOMED MODERATE STANDS TAKEN BY INDIA AND INDIANS EXPRESSED APPRECIATE FOR JAPANESE MODERATION AMONG THE CONSUMER. US AND FRG WERE CITED BY INDIANS AS TOUGHEST CONSUMERS IN CONSUMER-PRODUCER TALKS. ECONOMIC ISSUES WERE NOT DISCUSSED AND AFTER JAPANESE POINTED OUT SEVERE LIMITATIONS ON JAPANESE ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE CAPABILITY IMPOSED BY RECESSION, INDIANS DID NOT ASK FOR AID. HOWEVER, INDIANS ASKED JAPANESE TO USE MORE INDIAN LABOR IN GIANT MID-EAST DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS TO ALLANCE AN ALLEGED CURRENT PREFERENCE ON PART OF JAPANESE FIRMS FOR PAK AND BANGLADESHI LABORERS.

10. COMMENT: JAPANESE APPRECIATE MORE MODERATE ROLE BEING PLAYED BY INDIANS IN NON-ALIGNED AND UN CIRCLES BUT WE BELIEVE SHARMA OVERESTIMATED INDIAN CONFIDENTIAL

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ABILITY TO PERSUADE THE JAPANESE THAT DELHI'S TIES WITH MOSCOW DO NOT COMPROMISE INDIAN NEUTRALITY. SUGGESTION OF DIFFERENCES WITH SOVIETS ON SEVERAL POLICY ISSUES WERE PROBABLY SUSPECT TO JAPANESE AS PLOYS TO CREATE IMPRESSION OF DISTANCE FROM MOSCOW. HODGSON

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